New international airport at Bangalore

*218. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the changes in the FDI rules for modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports, the promoters of the Bangalore Greenfield Airport have developed cold feet;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to expedite modernisation of the Bangalore International Airport;

(c) whether Government's clearances, if any, has been accorded to this Airport;

(d) whether financial requirements have been tied-up; and

(e) what is the likely date of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have accorded following approvals/clearances to expedite Bangalore International Airport:

(i) Clearance to establish the airport at Devanhalli, near Bangalore.

(ii) Amendment of the Airports Authority of India Act (1994).

(iii) Approval of the airport site by Director General of Civil Aviation.

(iv) No Objection from Ministry of Defence.

(v) Environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(vi) Integrated Air-space Management.

(vii) Concession Agreement between the Government and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL).

(d) The project is proposed to be financed through equity by promoters, State support by the Government of Karnataka and debt from ICICI Bank. the project is in advacne stage of financial closure.

(e) The project is likely to be completed after 33 months of the Financial Closure.

Impact of Open Sky Policy on National Carriers

*219. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Open Sky Policy' of allowing private airlines to operate between Indian cities and the destinations abroad has affected the prospects of our National Carriers commercially;

(b) if so, what are the proposals to improve their prospects; and

(c) if not, whether the private airlines will be allowed to operate between far off destinations and also increase their frequencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has permitted Private Domestic Scheduled Operators (PDSOs) to operate only to SAARC countries subject to availability of traffic rights and provision for designation of multiple airlines in the respective Air Services Agreements. This is unlikely to have any adverse impact on the commercial prospects of our national carriers as private airlines can operate only out of the unutilized Indian entitlements.

Utilisation of ground water

*220. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has examined the indiscriminate exploitation of ground water reserves from aquifers at Plachimada, Palakkad, Kerala and Kaladera, Rajasthan by the multinational soft drink giants.

(b) if so, the details thereof including the action taken against the soft drink plants;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to estimate the extent of utilization of ground water by manufacturers of soft drinks and mineral water and for other purposes;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and category-wise; and